

Jacks Valley Trail Proposed Action

The Carson Ranger District of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest is proposing the construction of approximately 8.1 miles of new, non-motorized trail in the Jacks Valley Area. Carson Valley Trails Association (CVTA) proposed construction of the Jacks Valley Loop as part of the Clear Creek Trail system as early as 2009. This trail was originally part of the greater Clear Creek Trail Project, was scoped, and ultimately not constructed due to concerns over access at the Jacks Valley South TH. This trailhead was not able to be constructed due to the USFS building a fire facility at this location.

After analyzing public comments from summer 2021 scoping the southern trailhead will no longer be part of the Jacks Valley Trail proposal. The original alignment of the Jacks Valley Loop and connector to James Lee Park are unchanged.

The Jacks Valley area has seen increased non-motorized visitation over the past decade with the current forest order (Order Number 04-17-09-06) closing all roads to motorized use. This has resulted in the proliferation of social trails, many of which do not meet USFS specifications. As part of the construction of the new Jacks Valley Trail CVTA would decommission all social trails that intersect the new alignment and sign the intersections appropriately. The construction of a new, properly aligned and maintained trail will encourage traffic into a smaller overall corridor and reduce the broader footprint of non-motorized use in the Jacks Valley area, which has been noted as important winter range for mule deer by NDOW. Approximately 4.65 miles of social trail will be disguised or decommissioned at trail junctions to discourage use. Because the trail passes near or through critical winter mule deer range all dogs will be required to be on-leash to minimize wildlife impacts from visitors from December through March. This requirement is in alignment with other USFS system trails in the area that intersect sensitive wildlife habitat.

CVTA would construct the new trail that connects the Jacks Valley North TH to James Lee County Park with an optional loop through the southern part of the Jacks Valley WMA. This will be a non-motorized system trail open to hikers, bikers and horseback riders. This trail will be a part of an already existing system that has proven to be a very popular recreation destination for the public. The original proposal for the Clear Creek Trail system indicated a need for recreational opportunities that were easily accessible to the public and with increasing population in the Carson Valley that need has persisted.

The trail is located on NFS lands in Douglas County, NV south of Jacks Valley Road and west of US 395 on T14N 19E (sections 11, 12, 13, 14, 23, 24) and T14N 20E (sections 07 and 18).

The trail is planned to undergo construction in fall/winter 2021 with some final work stretching into 2022

Trail construction would be accomplished by CVTA volunteers with oversight and support from the Carson Ranger District recreation staff. Trail work will be accomplished primarily with hand tools. Some power tools (chainsaws, brush trimmers) may be needed to clear the corridor to an appropriate standard.